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LETTER DATED 19 SEPTEMBER 1993 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I should like to refer to Security Council resolutions 807 (1993), 815 (1993), 836 (1993), 844 (1993) and 847 (1993) and my reports S/25264 of 10 February 1993 and S/25939 of 14 June 1993.

It will be recalled that in operative paragraph 8 of its resolution 807 (1993), the Security Council has invited the Secretary-General to take all appropriate measures to strengthen the security of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), in particular by providing it with the necessary means of self-defence. In that resolution and when extending UNPROFOR's mandate in resolutions 815 (1993) and 847 (1993), the Council invoked Chapter VII of the Charter with a view to ensuring the security of UNPROFOR and its freedom of movement in the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In operative paragraph 10 of its resolution 836 (1993), the Security Council decided that in the context of the safe areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Member States, acting nationally or through regional arrangements, may take all necessary measures in support of UNPROFOR in the performance of its mandate.

The Force Commander of UNPROFOR is of the opinion that the problems relating to the security of the Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) in Croatia are directly interrelated. Should air power be used in Bosnia and Herzegovina, there is a strong possibility of retaliatory action against UNPROFOR in the UNPAs. Moreover, despite the upgrading of its defensive capabilities on the ground, the widely dispersed deployment of UNPROFOR in the UNPAs leaves its units unacceptably vulnerable to possible attacks. The Force Commander has, therefore, recommended that the authority to use air support for defensive purposes be extended to UNPROFOR's units in Croatia.

I concur with the assessment of the Force Commander and would, therefore, appreciate a clarification by the Security Council as to whether the necessary defensive means mentioned in its resolution 807 (1993) may include the provision of air support in defence of UNPROFOR in Croatia.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI
